



# Programs *at the* Park



FIND YOUR

PARK



MAY – OCTOBER 2015



**Visit us online: [www.nps.gov/mabi](http://www.nps.gov/mabi)  
802-457-3368 ext 22**

## GETTING HERE

Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park is located in Woodstock, Vermont, adjacent to the Billings Farm & Museum just outside the village on VT 12 North. Parking for the park is at the Billings Farm & Museum.

GPS: 5302 River Rd. Woodstock, VT  
43.63152,-72.51588.

## WELCOME TO THE PARK

Begin at the Visitor Center at the Billings Farm & Museum where National Park staff can answer questions and help plan your visit — there's lots of things to see and do at both the national park and the farm. We highly recommend that you start your visit by viewing the thirty minute film Academy Award® nominee, *A Place in the Land*.

Admission to the park is free, but fees are charged for many of the ranger-led programs. Combination tickets for park tours and the farm are available at the Billings Farm & Museum desk. Follow the walking path across Elm Street (VT 12) to visit the Carriage Barn Visitor Center and start exploring *your* National Park.



## ACCESSIBILITY

The Mansion, Carriage Barn Visitor Center and some of the Carriage Roads the National Park are wheelchair accessible. Accessible parking is available on site by request. Please ask park staff for assistance on arrival. American Sign Language interpretation is available by request; please give us at least 14 days notice so that we may make arrangements. For more information, call 802-457-3368 ext 22.

**Photography by Kent McFarland,  
John Gilbert Fox and park staff**

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# FIND YOUR PARK

## What do National Parks mean to you?

Parks mean many things to many people—they are places of outdoor adventures, landscapes of respite and restoration, hallowed grounds of sacrifice, and sites that mark the most pivotal moments in our nation's history.

The National Park idea emerged 150 years ago during the Civil War when the nation was struggling over the moral imperative of equal rights for all, and the words of George Perkins Marsh were gaining fertile ground in the call to recognize the co-dependence of society and nature.

Frederick Billings nurtured the germ of the National Park idea when he commissioned photographer Carleton Watkins to document Yosemite Valley. Watkins' stunning photographs were sent to Washington and inspired a divided congress to join efforts in an unprecedented act to preserve an iconic landscape for all Americans. It would take another 50 years to officially establish the National Park Service.

As we prepare for the centennial anniversary in 2016, we are kicking off the celebration with a Find Your Park challenge. Together, with our many partners, we are offering a great diversity of programs for all ages. We also have a lineup of special events planned for each month where you can join us in exploring and celebrating Your National Park. If you only have a short time to spend with us, we have you covered there too! Stop by the visitor desk to plan your park experience with guides, adventure packs and, of course, the Junior Ranger discovery book.

We look forward to seeing you on the trails, in the gardens, sitting a spell on the porch, or at one of these programs ... and on our Facebook page where you can tell us about your park adventures with #FindYourPark. Whatever you go, whatever you do—we invite you to Find Your Park!

– Michael Creasey, Superintendent





## Special Events

*\* Events are free unless otherwise noted.*



### JUNE 6 *Trek to Taste*

**10 AM – 3 PM.** A celebration of trails, local food, and healthy living with over 30 community partners. Join us for guided walks starting at 10:30 AM and noon or grab a map and venture out on your own. Choose from three different hikes and along the way sample delicious, local foods. Family games, crafts, demonstrations, ice cream social, music, and more.



### JULY 11 *BioBlitz*

**7 AM – SUNSET.** Part scientific endeavor, part festival, and part education — the BioBlitz will bring together leading scientists, naturalists and community members of all ages to find and document as many species as possible in one day at the park. Step outside with us and become part of a growing network of “citizen scientists.” Curiosity required, no experience necessary!



### JULY 12 & AUGUST 30 *Mansion Open House*

**12 PM – 4 PM.** Explore the Mansion at your own pace (with free admission)! Enjoy the gardens in full bloom while listening to musical performances by local artists.

### JULY 24–26 *Bookstock*

This community festival of words celebrates writers and poets of the Green Mountain State. The park will offer special programs and ranger-led tours: including a special book sale on the

Woodstock Green, a Robert Frost poetry walk, and a hiking and writing adventure for young authors.



**AUGUST 22**

## ***Community Open House & Picnic***

*12 AM – 4 PM.* Taking a cue from the Billings family who regularly hosted summer days of recreation and discovery, the park and Billings Farm & Museum invite you to join us for family lawn games, art activities, and nature explorations. Special behind the scenes tours will surprise even our most regular park visitors. Pack a basket for a picnic in the gardens or share afternoon lemonade with us on the porch.



**SEPTEMBER 26–27**

## ***Forest Festival Weekend***

*10 AM – 4 PM,*

*SATURDAY & SUNDAY*

Enjoy the park in its fall glory while exploring forest history, science, and art. Horse drawn wagon rides, woodworking and portable sawmill demonstrations, hikes with foresters, wood crafts for kids, and more!



**OCTOBER 17** ***Peak to Peak***

*10 AM – 2:30 PM.* Join us for a hike of Mt. Tom or Mt. Peg, or take the Peak to Peak challenge and summit both peaks. Enjoy spectacular views of Woodstock and the Ottauquechee River. Along the way try out kids' trail games and learn about the history and ecology of these two iconic hills. Picnic lunches available from local organizations.



## Daily Tours



### ***A Legacy of Stewardship: Introductory Tour to the Park and Mansion***

One-hour long ranger-led tours of the Mansion and grounds are offered daily throughout the season. 10 AM to 4 PM, May 23–November 1. Tour size is limited and reservations are recommended. \$8 for adults, \$4 with America the Beautiful pass, \$4 for seniors (62 and older); 15 years old and younger are free; 4th graders and families are free.



### ***Explore Your Park: The Daily Special***

Art, big trees, hidden spaces, garden history, and more! Throughout the week at 1:00 PM park staff will offer a special tour featuring the park's many unique stories and places. Topics and locations change daily throughout the week — check at the visitor desk for details. You never know what you might find!

### ***Two for the Day***

Take advantage of your time in Woodstock to visit both parts of this outstanding historic estate. Couple your purchase of a day pass to the farm with any national park tour requiring a ticket fee. Combination tickets can be purchased at the Billings Farm & Museum visitor desk.

**Please call for reservations and daily schedule:  
802-457-3368 ext. 22.**





## Civil War Home Front

Discover what life was like on the home front during the Civil War and the pivotal role that Woodstock played in the war effort in Vermont.



**Home Front Tour** — This two-hour walking tour explores sites within historic Woodstock village while offering a deeper understanding of the far-reaching effects of the Civil War on the role of African Americans and women, the meaning of citizenship, and the beginnings of land conservation.

**Smartphone App** — With photos, videos, and sound clips, this free iPhone App can guide you along the walking tour, whether on foot or virtually. Download at our website.

**New Birth of Freedom** — Illustrated with photographs from the Woodstock History Center archive and hand-rendered maps, this booklet is an informative companion to help you enjoy the Civil War walking tour at your own pace.



## Behind the Scenes with the Park's Curator

**Collections Curiosities:** From a silver spike driven into the Northern Pacific Railroad to rare woodblock prints from travels to Japan, the Mansion is full of objects that help to tell the story of the life and times of the Billings and Rockefeller families. Taking care of those artifacts is the work of the park's curator. This one-hour tour explores the variety of challenges and unusual approaches related to preserving these national heirlooms.

*Thursdays, 2 PM: June 11, July 9, Aug 13, and Sept 10*

*Interested in learning more about the collections?  
Visit our website or like us on Facebook to explore online exhibits  
that highlight the diversity of artifacts found throughout the park.*





## Tours and Rambles



*Tour size is limited and reservations are recommended.*

*Tours that require a ticket are marked with “\$”*

*(\$8 for adults, \$4 for seniors; 15 and younger are free; family members with a 4th grader are free.).*

*For a full schedule of programs see page 15.*

**Conservation through the Artist’s Eye** — American landscape paintings have inspired conservationists for over 100 years. See paintings by Hudson River School artists on this 1½-hour Mansion tour. \$

**Hidden Spaces, Unique Places** — A sneak-peak of the park’s historic buildings with their interesting architectural styles and histories. Learn about the techniques used to preserve these landmark structures in a behind-the-scenes tour. \$

**Gardens In Bloom** — Explore the park’s colorful gardens with its many layers of history and design influenced by some of the most notable landscape architects of the time. \$

*Couple this tour with the Heirloom Garden program at the Billings Farm & Museum with a combined ticket. \$\$*

**Lost Big Trees** — Americans are fascinated by the big trees of the West, but in the East we have our own big trees: white pine, hemlock, and chestnut. Discover the history, ecology, and future of the big eastern trees.







**Fallout** — The Cold War spurred proliferation of technologies with the power of vast destructiveness, and in its shadow a new environmental consciousness emerged. Go back in time with dramatic historic movie clips and a tour of a fully-stocked 1960s-era fallout shelter. \$



**Spirituality & the Environment** — This 1½-hour walking tour will explore ways faith has informed stewardship practice and the appreciation of nature. The tour includes a closer look at the original Hudson River School paintings inside the Mansion. \$

**Find Your Park** — What comes to mind when you think of National Parks: Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone? Yes, but there are many more—over 400, actually! Join us on Founder's Day to discover these hidden treasures and tell us about *your* favorite parks.

**Ice Cream Parlor Sundays** — June is dairy month. Enjoy making and sampling ice cream at the Billings Farm & Museum then join us for a tour of the historic ice cream parlor of the Belvedere. *Combined ticket with Billings Farm.* \$\$



**Appalachian Trails and Tales** — Extending from Maine to Georgia, the Appalachian Trail is a stellar example of citizen stewardship. Explore a section of the trail on a 3-hour moderate hike co-led with Ottawaquechee section members of The Green Mountain Club. Meet at Billings Farm & Museum Visitor Center.



## Fall Foliage Walk

View vibrant autumn foliage in this 2-hour walk along historic carriage roads while learning about the story of the Mount Tom Forest.

Easy 2½-mile walk.



## Especially for Kids



### *Junior Ranger Programs*

*Tuesdays, 2:30 PM*

Throughout the summer, 6-12 year olds can join a ranger for an exciting 1½ hour hands-on exploration and earn a Junior Ranger Badge.

June 30	Survival Skills: Being Safe in the Woods
July 7	Art in Nature
July 14	Exercise your Green Thumb
July 21	Become a Forester
July 28	Wildlife Scavenger Hunt
August 4	Life in a Log
August 18	Exploring the Mysteries of Ancient Trees

### *Self-Guided Junior Ranger Activity Book*

Packed with activities for young explorers to learn about the park while earning a Junior Ranger Badge. Pick one up at the Visitor Center or download from our website.



### *School is Out, Camps are In!*

AGES 4–6, JUNE 22 – 26

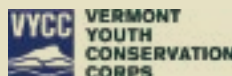
#### *Fun in the Forest Day Camps*

Become a “Nature Explorer” through art, music, movement, and hands-on play in the forest. A partnership with ArtisTree.



AGES 11–15: JULY 27– AUGUST 2

#### *Mountains & Rivers Forever: Wild with Senses Day Camp*



Explore your senses, and find YOUR park, through nature-based crafts and explorations on rivers and trails. A partnership with VYCC and local teachers.



## For Teachers

### ***Open House for Educators***

*August 21, 10 AM – 2 PM*

Explore all that the National Park and Billings Farm & Museum have to offer. The day will be full of special tours and will highlight programs developed by teachers, for teachers. Staff from both the park and farm will be available to discuss how we can support you to bring place-based learning into the curriculum for your students.

### ***Professional Development***

In collaboration with Shelburne Farms and a network of area partners, the park offers an array of professional development opportunities in place-based learning and education for sustainability. Programs range from one-day workshops to the highly-regarded year-long institute, *A Forest for Every Classroom*. For more information visit us on the web or contact [Joan\\_Haley@partnership.nps.gov](mailto:Joan_Haley@partnership.nps.gov)







## Working Woodlands



Informative, hands-on workshops for the woodland enthusiast. Come learn from forestry professionals, scientists, and landowners. A partnership with Vermont Coverts and Vermont Woodlands Association.

### **May Flowers**

*May 9, 9–11 AM*

Experience the beauty of Vermont's ephemeral wildflowers—trilliums, trout lilies, spring beauties, and other forest flowers that bloom for just a short time in spring. Meet at the Forest Center. Easy, 1.5 miles.



### **Forestry for the Birds**

*May 23, 8:30 AM–NOON*

Tour bird-friendly forestry work—see and hear the changes good forest management can make. Bring binoculars if you have them. A partnership with Audubon Vermont. Meet at the Prosper Road trailhead. Easy, 3 miles.



### **Fern Fun**

*June 20, 9–11 AM*

Ferns are a beautiful inhabitant of the forest, and Vermont has over 50 different species! This two-hour walking tour will share tips for identifying the ferns in your backyard. Meet at the Forest Center. Easy, 1.5 miles.

### **The Future of the Forest**

*September 19 and 26, 10:30 AM–12:30 PM*

This hiking tour explores the history and stewardship of the oldest professionally managed forest in the United States. See some unique parts of the park and visit stands with active forestry projects. Meet at the Prosper Road trailhead. Easy, 3 miles.





## Warblers, Woods and Watersheds



All these programs are FREE. Bring appropriate footwear, water, and bug repellent. Group size is limited and reservations are recommended.

Keeping tabs on the ecological conditions in parks is the mission of the NPS Northeast Temperate Network (NETN). Join NETN staff for these two-hour hikes to learn how you can become a “citizen scientist.” Binoculars and a smartphone are helpful, but not required. Moderate, 3-mile walk.

*All programs 10 AM–12 PM.*

### **Bud Burst and Bird Song** — May 30

Track the park’s feathered friends and seasonal rhythms

### **Trees and Trespassers** — July 18

Take the pulse on forest health and bar the door to invasive plants

### **Monitoring Mashup** — August 29

Critter tracks, frog calls, bird songs, and so much more.

### **Phenology and Climate** — September 12

Chart “nature’s calendar” to understand climate change.

### **Pogue to the Pines** — October 10

Dip your toes into the workings of water monitoring

## **Horse Logging**

In late September, visit a horse-logging site in action and learn about the 150-year legacy of forestry on Mount Tom. See how trees are marked and harvested and the various ways wood is used in our daily lives. Ask at the Visitor Center for location.





## Our Partners

*Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park operates in partnership with the Billings Farm & Museum and Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site.*



Augustus  
Saint-Gaudens,  
*Diana*, 1892.

### Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

*Cornish, New Hampshire*

Explore the home, studios, and gardens of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, one of America's greatest sculptors. See over 100 of his artworks, from heroic public monuments to expressive portrait reliefs, and the coins that changed the look of the American coin. Enjoy summer concerts, explore nature trails, or indulge your hidden talents during a sculpture class. Saint-Gaudens NHS lies 20 miles south-east of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP.

(603) 675-2175 | [www.nps.gov/saga](http://www.nps.gov/saga)

### Billings Farm & Museum

Billings Farm & Museum features one of the finest operating Jersey dairy farms in America, continuing a long-standing tradition of agricultural excellence. As Vermont's premier gateway for interpreting its rural culture and agrarian heritage, Billings Farm offers diverse, interactive programs that focus on rural life, work, and land stewardship as reflected in the traditions and values of 19th-century farm families and as revealed in Vermont's rural history. Combination tickets for Billings Farm and National Park tours are available.

(802) 457-2355 | [www.billingsfarm.org](http://www.billingsfarm.org)







## Park Calendar

### May

Sat 9	May Flowers 9 AM
Sat 23	Full schedule of daily tours starts
Sat 23	Forestry for the Birds 8:30 AM
Sat 30	Bud Burst and Bird Song 10 AM

### June

Sat 6	Trek to Taste 10 AM–3 PM
Thu 11	Collections Curiosities 2 PM
Sun 7	Ice Cream Sunday 1 PM & 3 PM
Sat 13	Fallout 10:30 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Sun 14	Gardens in Bloom 10:30 AM Ice Cream Sunday 1 PM & 3 PM
Sat 20	Fern Fun 9am Hidden Spaces 2 PM
Sun 21	Gardens in Bloom 10:30 AM Ice Cream Sunday 1 PM & 3 PM
Sat 27	Fallout 10:30 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Sun 28	Ice Cream Sunday 1 PM & 3 PM Art Tour 2 PM

### July

Sat 4	Fallout 10:30 AM Civil War Tour 2 PM
Sun 5	Appalachian Trails and Tales 10 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Thu 9	Collections Curiosities 2 PM
Sat 11	BioBlitz 7 AM—sunset
Sun 12	Mansion Open House 12–4 PM
Sat 18	Trees and Trespassers 10 AM Art Tour 2 PM
Sun 19	Appalachian Trails and Tales 10 AM Spirituality and the Environment 2 PM Ice Cream Sunday 1 PM & 3 PM
Sat 25	Bookstock: Robert Frost Walk 2 PM
Sun 26	Bookstock

### August

Sat 1	Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM Civil War 2 PM
Sun 2	Appalachian Trails and Tales 10 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Sat 8	Woodstock Summer Fest Spirituality and the Environment 2 PM
Sun 9	Gardens in Bloom 10:30 AM Art Tour 2 PM
Thu 13	Collections Curiosities 2 PM
Sat 15	Fallout 10:30 AM Civil War 2 PM

### August continued

Sun 16	Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Fri 21	Open House for Educators 10 AM–2 PM
Sat 22	Community Open House and Picnic 12–4 PM
Sun 23	Gardens in Bloom 10:30 AM Art Tour 2 PM
Tues 25	Find Your Park 7 PM
Sat 29	Monitoring Mashup 10 AM Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM Civil War 2 PM
Sun 30	Mansion Open House 12–4 PM

### September

Sat 5	Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM Gardens in Bloom 2 PM
Sun 6	Appalachian Trails and Tales 10 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Thur 10	Collections Curiosities 2 PM
Sat 12	Woodstock Art Festival Phenology and Climate Change 10 AM Art Tour 2 PM
Sun 13	Woodstock Art Festival Spirituality and the Environment 11 AM Art Tour 2 PM
Sat 19	The Future of the Forest 10:30 AM Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM Civil War Tour 2 PM
Sun 20	Fallout 10:30 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Sat 26	Forest Festival 10 AM–4 PM
Sun 27	Forest Festival 10 AM–4 PM

### October

Sat 3	Fall Foliage Walk 10:30 AM
Sun 4	Appalachian Trails and Tales 10 AM
Thu 8	Fall Foliage Walk 10:30 AM
Sat 10	Fall Foliage Walk 10:30 AM Pogue to the Pines 10 AM
Mon 12	Fall Foliage Walk 10:30 AM
Sat 17	Peak to Peak 10 AM–2:30 PM
Sun 18	Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM Lost Big Trees 2 PM
Sat 24	Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM Spirituality and the Environment 2 PM
Sun 25	Art Tour 2 PM
Sat 31	Hidden Spaces 10:30 AM

**Plus:** Spring programs – every weekend in May, 1PM  
Walk Wednesdays – every Wednesday in June and July,  
5 PM at the Village Green

# FIND YOUR PARK



## *Walk for Wellness: For your heart, for your happiness!*

Adding a little physical activity to our day offers health benefits. It helps with weight control, builds stronger bones and muscles, can boost your mood — and it's fun. Our local trails are great for recreational walking for health. Meet park staff at the Woodstock Village Green every Wednesday at 5 PM in June and July for a one-hour walk.

[www.nps.gov/mabi](http://www.nps.gov/mabi) • 802-457-3368 x22

Bookstock July 24-26

Woodstock Summer Fest August 8

Woodstock Art Festival Sept. 12-13



Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHP  
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Woodstock, VT 05091

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